



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 12 JULY: 15 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
(Is 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Mt 13:1-23)



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Parish Priest: Rev. Thomas John, (*Resident at St Peter's*)

Sunday Mass: St. Peter's 4.00pm (Sat) & 10.00 am, St. Fergus' 5.30pm (Sat) & 11.30 am
Weekday Mass: St Peter's – Tue, Thu, & Fri 10.00am; St Fergus – Mon, & Wed 9.30am
Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm (Sat), St Fergus' 5.00 -5.25pm (Sat); and on request

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick: Elaine Paterson, for all who have recently died in particular, Mary McAlister, and Mark Graham, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ellen Popes, Vincent Mothersole, Tommy Hallan, Jackie Walker, six-months mind of Donna Hughes and one-month mind of Rose Mary McMulkin.

TEA/COFFEE: Please note that there will be no tea or coffee served after the Sunday morning mass in St Peter's until mid-August due to holidays and volunteer breaks.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (05 July): St Peter's – Offertory: £463.00, B. Fund: £288.00. St Fergus: Offertory: 168.00, B. Fund: £76.00.

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY: We provide training and support for all who are responsible for safeguarding.

FATIMA VIGIL IN HOWWOOD: The Fatima Vigil is held in Christ the King Church, Howwood on the 12th of each month from May to October. The next Vigil will take place this Sunday 12th July. The Vigil begins with a Rosary procession (weather allowing) at 7:30pm, followed by Holy Mass and Benediction. Refreshments are available in the hall afterwards.

ST ANTHONY OF THE DESERT AND ST BENEDICT: One of the driving forces and strengths of the Catholic Church in the earlier days was monasticism. Today, many people rarely hear about it because it is not very common. What is monasticism in the Catholic Church? It is a way of life where people step away from the normal world to focus completely on God. Monks and nuns take special vows. They live in communities or as

hermits. They pray, work, and deny themselves worldly things to grow closer to Jesus.

St. Anthony of Egypt/*St. Anthony of the Desert* is widely recognized as the overall father of Christian monasticism. He was born c. 251, in Koma, Middle Egypt. He died in 356, at Dayr, Antonios hermitage, near the Red Sea. His feast day is 17th January. He felt an inner call to follow Christ more closely when he listened to Matthew 19:21, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven.' Anthony gave away some of his family's land to his neighbours, sold the remaining property, and donated the funds to the poor. He began to practice an ascetic life and after 15 years he withdrew for absolute solitude to a mountain by the Nile called Pispir (Egyptian desert), where he lived from about 286 to 305, inspiring thousands to follow. His followers lived mostly as individual hermits.

When persecution of Christians ended in 313, he moved to a mountain in the Eastern Desert, between the Nile and the Red Sea where the monastery Dayr still stands.

Anthony is an example for monastic women and men and all Christian people through his fidelity to prayer in solitude and his awareness of his own frailty and vulnerability before God and his dependence upon God alone.

St Benedict is celebrated as the father of Western monasticism. Benedict was born into Roman nobility in Nursia, central Italy, roughly 100 miles northeast of Rome about the year 480. His father

was a prefect for the Western Roman Empire, which had fallen to the barbarians a decade prior to his birth. He had a twin sister named Scholastica, who also became a saint. As a youth, Benedict was sent to Rome for studies. However, he quickly became disillusioned by the prevalent immorality and disorder. At the same time, he felt he had a special call from God, and so retired to a cave at Subiaco, about forty miles south of Rome. He lived there for three years. His manner of life attracted followers, and this led to the establishment of a monastery at Subiaco, which still exists. As a hermit, Benedict prayerfully sought to root out all sin in his life, especially the three temptations common to most people: “the temptation of self-affirmation and the desire to put oneself at the centre, the temptation of sensuality and, lastly, the temptation of anger and revenge” (Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, April 9, 2008). After having conquered these temptations, Benedict was invited by a group of local monks to become their abbot. He left the monks and returned to his cave before emerging to found monasteries in the area over the following years. Many admired him and were attracted to his radical way of living. Numerous miracles are said to have taken place through his intervention

After founding twelve small monasteries in the Subiaco area, Benedict felt it was time for a fresh start. He moved about sixty miles southeast to the mountaintop of Monte Cassino, where, at the age of fifty, he founded his most famous monastery and remained there until his death in 547.

Upon arriving at Monte Cassino, Benedict found a temple built to the Roman god Apollo. He destroyed it, built two chapels in its place, and then constructed a monastery nearby. Before this, most monasteries consisted of loosely associated hermits living independently but also somewhat communally. Having seen the failure of this form of monasticism in Subiaco, Benedict adopted a new approach. Instead of several smaller monasteries, he built one large monastery where numerous monks could live. He organized monks into strict, unified communities under his famous *Rule of St. Benedict*, that guided his newly established monastery at Monte Cassino and eventually became the normative rule for Western monasticism for the next 1,500 years. Hence, Saint Benedict is often referred to as the “Father of Western Monasticism.”

The Rule lays out guidelines for monastic living, particularly in areas of stability, conversion of life, obedience, prayer, work, community life, hospitality, and humility. The Rule fosters a

balanced community life in which individual monks can discover a daily rhythm of prayer, work, and study conducive to a deeper and personal calling to holiness.

While Benedict set up his community at Monte Cassino, his sister, Scholastica, helped found a monastery for women. It's likely that Benedict played a role in this founding and that his Rule guided the nuns' daily life. After fewer than ten years at Monte Cassino, Benedict died, but his influence on the Church and all of Europe was just beginning. Monasteries across Europe, guided by the Rule of Saint Benedict, developed into important centres for education, medicine, culture, and social development. From these monasteries, universities were born. The monasteries helped to preserve ancient texts, stabilize communities, influence nobility, and draw many to Christ. Their liturgies flourished and influenced the wider Church, making many of these monasteries the central teachers of prayer and worship. For these reasons, many have referred to Saint Benedict as not only the father of monasticism but also the father of modern Europe, given the influence that monasteries using his Rule have had on Europe and the world as a whole. For this reason, Pope Paul VI declared Saint Benedict the Patron Saint of Europe in 1964.

11th July, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Benedict. In response to Peter's question in the gospel reading, ‘What about us? We have left everything to follow you. What are we to have then?’ Jesus promises his disciples that everyone who has left home and family for his sake will be repaid a hundred times over. Most of us are not called to leave home and family for Jesus' sake. Yet, there is always something we have to leave or let go of if we are to remain the Lord's faithful followers. Jesus assures us that if we are prepared to take this path of letting go for his sake, we will always receive more from him.

[RADIO MARIA UK NOW ON DAB RADIO IN THE GLASGOW AREA:](https://radiomaria.uk/) Radio Maria United Kingdom (RM UK) is pleased to announce a significant expansion of its DAB digital radio coverage, with the addition of a major new signal across Scotland. The new Scottish DAB signal covers up to 70% of the nation's population, reaching its principal cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, as well as Scotland's Central Belt, including the Glasgow to Edinburgh corridor. The Scotland signal went on air on Monday 22nd June at approximately 11am. Find out more and listen online at <https://radiomaria.uk/>.